

(Washington DC) Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (D-San Antonio, TX) applauded the Bexar County Commissioners Court for passing a resolution, which recognizes the need for comprehensive immigration legislation. The resolution identified the aims of such legislation: improving national security, the promotion of economic development and a comprehensive guest worker program that would provide a path for citizenship to those interested in becoming American citizens.

"The Bexar County Commissioners Court successfully articulated this issue's key policy considerations without political posturing," said Congressman Gonzalez. "Their resolution cites the pertinent economic considerations while balancing the human side of immigration reform. Employing empirical data, Judge Wolff and the County Commissioners reached a logical, reasoned conclusion, something that has frequently been lacking from the national immigration debate. This is not an abstract meditation for residents of South Texas. Our lives will be immeasurably changed depending on what form immigration legislation takes.

We need to admit that deporting 12 million people will not work and that our economy depends on the labor they provide. The Bexar County Commissioners Court recognizes this reality and their resolution urges lawmakers in Washington DC to develop and implement realistic programs.

Militarizing our border with Mexico would have a devastating effect on Texas' economy. Of course we must make our border secure yet we need to use the best methods to do so. Our economy is too intertwined with Mexico's that we must take care not to wreak considerable harm when looking at enacting comprehensive immigration legislation. This is why exploring the long-term consequences of the many provisions in the immigration legislation is crucial."

The Commissioners Court emphasized the intertwined nature of Texas and Mexico and their shared border, history and cultures. The resolution stressed the longstanding economic ties between Texas and Mexico in terms of trade and the economic impact visitors from Mexico have on San Antonio. Moreover, the need for extra labor in our economy was acknowledged as was how workers from Mexico and elsewhere could meet that need. Yet, the resolution emphasized that comprehensive reform should institute an orderly, regulated system for admitting workers.

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